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# OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

CATHOLIC CHURCH • GREENWICH

FEBRUARY- DEDICATED TO THE HOLY FAMILY

## ✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

**MISSAL:**

**PRAYERS AND READINGS pg. 151**

**BEGINNING OF MASS pg. 7**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER pg. 18**

### SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> February

6.00pm Vigil Mass Jeremy and Kerri Blessing RIP

### SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of LENT

9.00am Sung Mass Rita McManus RIP  
11.00am Sung mass In Thanksgiving to Our Lady

### MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### SAINT POLYCARP

11:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12.30pm Holy Mass In thanksgiving for the Drapers Charity

### TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> February

#### LENTEN FERIA

6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00pm Holy Mass People of the Parish

### WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> February

#### SAINT ETHELBERT

11:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12:30pm Holy Mass Souls of the Carvana Family RIP

### THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> February

#### LENTEN FERIA

11:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12.30pm Holy Mass Cecilia McEvoy RIP

### FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> February

#### LENTEN FERIA

11:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12:30pm Holy Mass Leo Kiernan RIP

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

### SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> February

#### LENTEN FERIA

6.00pm Vigil Mass Patricia McFadden RIP (Birthday)

### SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of LENT

9.00am Sung Mass Pauline Rydee RIP  
11.00am Sung Mass People of the Parish

### DONATIONS

Nat West Bank  
Sort code: 60-09-16  
Account number: 25240676  
Account Name: RCAS Greenwich

*This parish is part of the RCAOS  
registered Charity Number 1173050*

*Thank you for your kindness and  
generosity.*

### ST. URSULA'S GIRLS CONVENT SCHOOL

Head Mr O'Shaughnessy  
Crooms Hill  
SE10 8HN  
Tel: 020 8858 4613

### ST. JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Ms. Long  
Commerell Street  
SE10 9AN  
Tel. 02088584182

### LAST WEEK

**COLLECTION**  
GIFT AID - £38.00  
LOOSE - £239.56

**ATTENDANCE**  
283

**Confessions** Saturdays at 10.00am – 10.30am and 5pm - 5.30pm. After  
weekday Mass – please sit by the confessional.  
**Adoration** One hour before every weekday mass.

## **Spiritual Thought**

The holy Lenten season began beautifully on Ash Wednesday. The church was full for all the masses – an experience shared by other parishes too, which I found out after straw poll from other local priests.

In different places this season is called by different names. For example, in German it is called “fasting time” describing what happens, in romance languages it is named for it’s forty days, coming from the Latin “Quadregesima” – and so we get for example in Spanish “cuaresma” or French “careme”.

But in English “lent”, is derived from the old English “lencten” meaning the spring season, when the days lengthen and winter is put behind us, and nature joins the church in expecting the resurrection.

It is not merely that the hours of sunlight are increasing, but there is a strange experience when fasting from something, that the days appear longer. Those regular habits which break up the day, help us switch off, are a pleasure to look forward to, when they are removed our day loses its form, the markers are gone, and the days appear longer.

This is one reason the Desert Fathers spoke of the ‘midday demon’ of temptation – with something given up the day can feel longer, midday never moves on and temptation increases.

It is also not just the days which lengthen. We may notice, as our Lenten journey continues that our spiritual life, the experience of our soul seems to grow. There is a particular feeling in the prayers of lent, which remind us each day to search for the mercy of the Lord, to call out to Him. Whether you pray these prayers or not, as we are one body in the church, they will have some effect.

This reaching out with our prayer, fasting and almsgiving stretches us, ‘lengthens’ us, particularly when we find it difficult and we’re tempted to give in. Similar to a physical material being stretched, or new branches stretching out toward the sun, so the soul also reaches out to God for healing. As we are ‘lengthened’ we can experience a deeper spiritual sensitivity, perhaps a deeper vulnerability, so God can do his work on us.

## **Stations of the Cross**

Will be walked in the church on Tuesday after the evening Mass, and on all Sundays afternoons in lent, at 4:30pm.

## **Easter Choir**

Do remember our Easter choir, which will be led by our wonderful organist Laurence. We will meet on each Friday of lent, beginning this Friday at 7pm to learn the hymns and solemn chants. All are welcome.

## **Weekday Mass Times**

We will begin the daily 12:30pm Mass on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, this mass will replace the 9:30am Mass. I am trialling this weekday mass time until the end of lent,

please let me know your thoughts. (Tuesday evening masses are unchanged).

While we are trying this Mass time – the Friday Mass at the Elizabeth Cottages will move to 10am.

## **Lenten Book Group**

The parish Lenten book group will begin meeting today (22<sup>nd</sup> Feb) at 3pm in the Presbytery. If you would like to join please buy a copy of St. Augustine’s Confessions (preferably the translation by Benignus O’Rourke, but any will do). If you have any questions please speak to Fr Tom.

## **40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil**

The vigil in Brixton will run for 12 hours a day, 8am until 8pm, seven days a week from Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you could spare an hour to come and pray with us, it would be a great help. The vigil takes place at the corner of Brixton Hill and Brixton Water Lane, London, SW2 5BJ. For more details or to book to attend please call Gabriella on 02077231740.

## **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It’s a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next 2 retreats are 27<sup>th</sup> Feb-1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2026 in Swindon and 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in Maidstone, why not find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk)

## **Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!**

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords.

Please visit [righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026](http://righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026) to ask our MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

## **Dominican Sisters**

I’ve heard from Sister Veronica that everyone has arrived home safely. Both sisters were deeply touched by the many words of appreciation and sorrow at parting on their final weekend with us. Please do remember to keep both Sisters Veronica and Florence in your prayers.

## **Volunteers Needed**

If anyone is free during the day on weekdays, to help with an important work in the parish office, please speak to Fr Tom.